CLAIMS:

1. A circuit (4), this circuit (4) being provided for a communication partner appliance (2) that is designed for contact less communication and as a data carrier, this communication partner appliance (2) being provided for a communication system with at least one further communication partner appliance (3), in which circuit (4) a first communication mode or a second communication mode can be activated, and which circuit (4) has the means listed below:

- activators (30, 35) for activating the first communication mode or the second communication mode, and
- reception means (36) for receiving a carrier signal that is transmitted by the at least one further communication partner appliance (3), and
- detectors (32) for detecting the presence of the received carrier signal (RS), these detectors (32) transmitting a carrier signal present signal (PS) in the event that the carrier signal (RS) is present, and otherwise transmitting a carrier signal not-present signal (NPS), and
- command signal recognition means (25) for recognizing a command signal that can be transmitted with the aid of the carrier signal (RS) and for transmitting a command-end signal (CES) that represents the end of the transmitted command signal, and
- determination means (27) for determining whether, after the occurrence of the command-end signal (CES), at a given measurement point in time (t5), the carrier signal present signal (PS) is present, with which determination means (27) a first activation signal (AS1) can be transmitted when the carrier signal present signal (PS) is present, and otherwise a second activation signal (AS2) can be transmitted, with which first activation signal (AS1) the circuit (4) can be brought into the first communication mode with the aid of the activators (30, 35), and with which second activation signal (AS2) the circuit (4) can be brought into the second communication mode with the aid of the activators (30, 35).

2. A circuit (4) as claimed in claim 0, wherein the activators (30, 35) are designed to activate a passive communication mode as the first communication mode, and an active communication mode as the second communication mode, wherein in the case of the

active communication mode, a power supply for the circuit (4) is provided that is independent of the carrier signal (RS), and in the case of the passive communication mode, a power supply for the circuit (4) is provided that is dependent on the carrier signal (RS).

3. A circuit (4) as claimed in claim 0, wherein a battery or accumulator (37) is provided for the independent power supply.

4. A communication partner appliance (2) that is designed as a data carrier and is equipped with a circuit (4) as claimed in any one of the claims 0 to 0.

5. A circuit (5), this circuit (5) being provided for a communication partner appliance (3) that is designed for contact less communication and as a communication station, this communication partner appliance (3) being provided for a communication system with at least one further communication partner appliance (2), in which further communication partner appliance (2) a first communication mode or a second communication mode can be activated, this circuit (5) containing the means listed below:

- production means (15) for producing a carrier signal (RS), and
- transmission means (18) for transmitting the carrier signal (RS) to the further communication partner appliance (2), and
- arranging means (9) for arranging a communication mode, and
- a generator (10) for generating at least one command signal, which command signal can be transmitted to the further communication partner appliance (2) with the aid of the carrier signal (RS), and
- first control elements (11) for transmitting a command-end signal (CES) that represents the end of the generated command signal, and
- second control elements (12), with which second control elements (12), after the occurrence of the command-end signal (CES), the generation and/or transmission of the carrier signal (RS) can be ended at a particular point in time (t4).

6. A circuit (5) as claimed in claim 0, wherein the arranging means (9) are designed for the optional arrangement of an active communication mode or a passive communication mode, in which active communication mode the further communication partner appliance (2) has a power supply that is independent of the carrier signal (RS), and in

which passive communication mode the further communication partner appliance (2) has a power supply that is dependent on the carrier signal (RS).

7. A circuit (5) as claimed in claim 0 or 0, wherein energy source recognition means (21) are provided, these energy source recognition means (21) being adapted to recognize an energy source for supplying power to the circuit (5), and with which energy source recognition means (21) an energy source recognition signal can be transmitted depending on the energy source that has been recognized, and wherein the arranging means (9) are designed to arrange the communication mode depending on the energy source recognition signal.

8. A circuit (5) as claimed in claim 0, wherein response signal detectors (42) are provided, for detecting a response signal (TS) transmitted by the further communication partner appliance (2), in the course of which detection a change-over signal (US) can be generated, and wherein the arranging means (9) are designed to automatically arrange the communication mode depending on the change-over signal (US) that has been generated.

9. A circuit (5) as claimed in claim 0, wherein influencing means are provided for influencing a signal strength of the carrier signal (RS) depending on the arranged communication mode.

10. A communication partner appliance (3) that is designed as a communication station and is equipped with a circuit (5) as claimed in any one of the claims 0 to 0.

11. A method for activating a first communication mode or a second communication mode of a communication partner appliance (2), wherein the communication partner appliance (2) is provided for a communication system with at least one further communication partner appliance (3), and wherein a carrier signal (RS) is transmitted by the at least one further communication partner appliance (3), this carrier signal (RS) being received with the communication partner appliance (2), and

- wherein in the communication partner appliance (2), detection of the presence of the received carrier signal (RS) takes place, and in the event of the carrier signal (RS) being present, a carrier signal present signal (PS) is transmitted, and otherwise a carrier signal not-present signal (NPS) is transmitted, and

- wherein recognition of a command signal (ICO) that can be transmitted with the aid of the carrier signal (RS) takes place, and transmission of a command-end signal (CES) that represents the end of the transmitted command signal (ICO) takes place, and
- wherein determination is carried out to see whether, after the occurrence of the command-end signal (CES), at a measurement point in time (ts), the carrier signal present signal (PS) is present, wherein a first activation signal (AS1) is transmitted when the carrier signal present signal (PS) is present, and otherwise a second activation signal (AS2) is transmitted, and wherein with the first activation signal (AS1), activation of the communication partner appliance (2) into the first communication mode is carried out, or with the second activation signal (AS2), activation of the communication partner appliance (2) into the second communication mode is carried out.

12. A device, this device having a circuit (4) as claimed in any one of the claims 0 to 0 and a circuit (5) as claimed in any one of the claims 0 to 0.

13. A device as claimed in claim 0, wherein the circuit as claimed in any one of the claims 0 to 0 and the circuit as claimed in any one of the claims 0 to 0 are realized in a single circuit.